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THE BAPTIST Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Growth strategies mulled at conference

By Tony Martin
Associate Editor

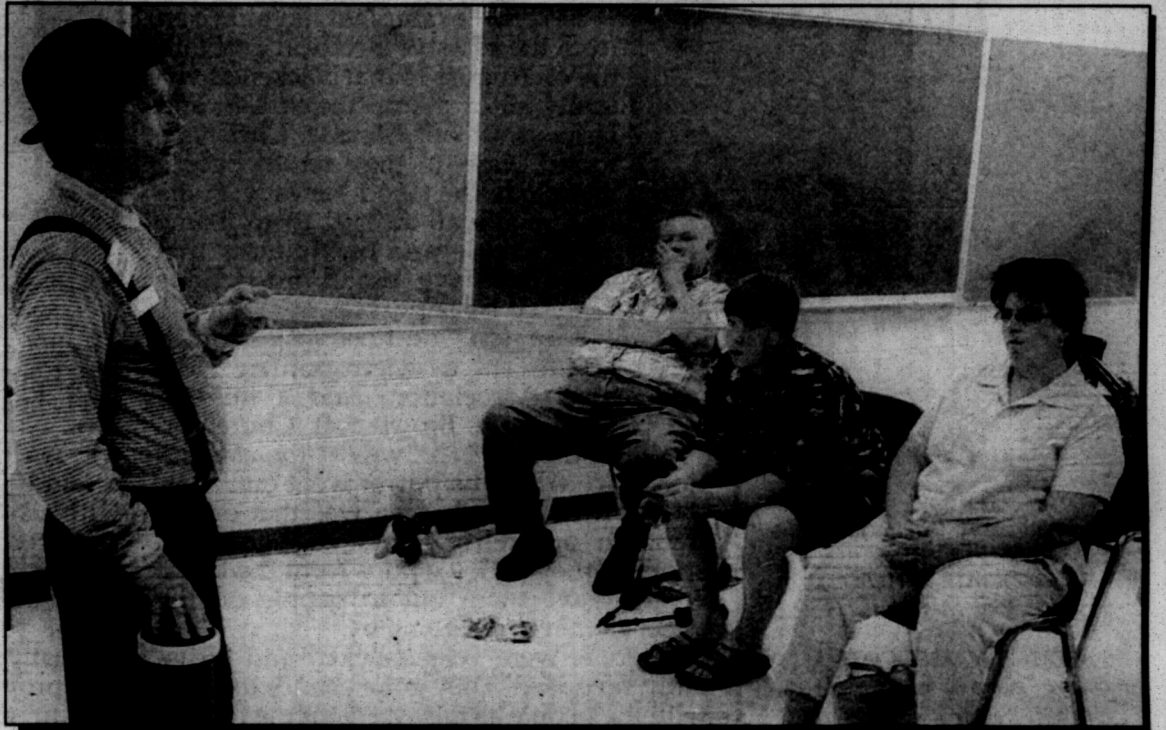
For today's busy Baptist layman, church staffer, or pastor, having a conference that offers "one-stop shopping" is a real plus. The annual Growing Healthy Churches Through Discipleship is just such a conference.

Sponsored by the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department (DFM) of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) and funded by gifts to the Mississippi Cooperative Program, the conference was held this year at Gulfshore Assembly in Pass Christian on July 24-26.

According to Harvey Ellis, DFM consultant and conference coordinator, the purpose of the conference is to "encourage and challenge churches to grow. We wanted to let them know that their churches could grow if they aren't growing, or to give them some specific ways they can grow in new areas if they are growing. We wanted to offer them growth strategies in areas such as Sunday School, discipleship, evangelism, women's ministry, recreation — just a variety of different areas."

To accomplish this, the three-day conference provided a wide variety of leaders and conferences that included sessions on mentoring, senior adult ministry, media library, student ministry, leadership, balloon sculpture and illusion, money management, and other areas.

Leaders with expertise in those areas came from Mississippi, Tennessee, Alabama, and Louisiana. Additionally, Bible study and special activities were offered for preschoolers, children, and youth. The schedule also included two conference-wide worship services, with one session featuring a concert by the Annie Moses Band. The other session featured the junior high Mississippi Bible Drill Tournament finalists and the Mississippi Speakers Tournament finalists.



CLOWNING AROUND — Perry Robbins (left), pastor of Emmanuel Church, Columbia, demonstrates the art of making balloon sculptures to conferees at the Growing Churches Conference held at Gulfshore Assembly in Pass Christian on July 24-26. (BR photo by Tony Martin)

Approximately 225 attended the conference. "Next year will be a little different," Ellis said. "It will hit hard in the areas dealing specifically with Sunday School, discipleship, and women's ministry/Woman's Missionary Union."

Ellis said conference planners look for experts — those who are "doing it right" — as leaders. "For instance, we invited Gregg Thomas, pastor at Parkway Church in Houston, to lead in small group discipleship. For a pastor looking at growing a church from a discipleship perspective, here's someone who is effective. Ronald Meeks, a professor at Blue Mountain College, did a conference on 'Don't be the caboose on the discipleship train.'"

Matt Buckles, director of pastor/leadership development at MBCB, worked specifically with pastors and deacons during the conference, with 40 to 50 conferees attending his sessions, Ellis noted.

"We even had a conference dealing with clowning," Ellis said. "We wanted to show there were different ways to do ministry and help grow the church. We try to avoid the 'same old, same old.'"

The 2004 Growing Churches conference will be at Gulfshore Assembly on July 29-31. For more information, contact Ellis at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3284 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 284. E-mail: hgellis@mbcb.org.

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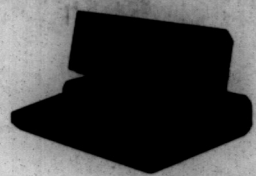
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Simple acts, big impacts

We often hear stories of Christian missionaries field-improvising dramatic solutions to the road-blocks that had been preventing them from reaching the lost people with whom they came to share the Good News.

As captivating as those stories are, we shouldn't lose sight of the fact that followers of Jesus Christ are all called to be missionaries — to take seriously our Lord and Savior's command in Matthew 28:18-20. We may not have as many swashbuckling tales as the "full-time" missionaries who serve on the other side of the globe, but we can find ways to make known our Christianity in whatever condition we find ourselves.

Several examples have arisen from the massive electrical grid failure on August 14 that blackened virtually all of the northeast U.S. and large swaths of Canada. Christians found ways to minister to people and share the Good News with the lost people all around them. Some were simple acts of kindness that came to have broad impact, as reported by Baptist Press.

Lisa Chilson-Rose, director of volunteers at Metropolitan New York Association, said a mission team from Browncroft Church in Rochester, N.Y., was at the association office when the power went out.

"Part of our dilemma was that everything in our refrigerators was going to spoil, so they took icy pops from the freezer and gave them out to people on the street as they were going by."

"People were very shocked and pleasantly surprised. They got a chance to share with the people as they were giving out the icy pops. So they were able to do a little mission work while we were waiting to see what was going on," Chilson-Rose said.

She also told Baptist Press how encouraging it was to know so many Christians around the country were praying for New Yorkers.

"This morning (August 15) I was checking my e-mail and lots of people have written and said they were praying for us, so



UNPOWERED EXODUS — Thousands of New Yorkers stream out of Manhattan on Aug. 14 after a major power outage surprised people in the northeastern United States and southeast Canada. Mississippi Baptists spent months in New York City after the terrorist attacks of 9/11, helping the city and its people recover. (BP photo courtesy of Zuma Press)

we really appreciate the prayers from around the country. God was certainly with us through the night. I knew there were certain people who were praying for us, but it was nice to get those e-mails to know others were too."

Far to the west in Cleveland, Ohio, Baptist Press reported that the power outage provided Christians with opportunities to minister through similar acts of kindness, according to Bob Mackey, pastor of Parma Church and moderator of Greater Cleveland Association.

Mackey lost power at both his church and his home shortly after 4 p.m. Thursday. By 6 a.m. Friday, the church had regained power and began to open its doors for Cleveland-area residents who were without air conditioning in their homes — just a simple act of kindness.

"We're Christians. We have a lot of confidence in the Lord," Mackey said.

Many Mississippi Baptists have a special place in their hearts and prayers for New Yorkers, because they spent so much time in the city after the 9/11 terrorist attacks working under the auspices of the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Unit.

Perhaps Mississippi Baptists' many acts of simple kindness during that time rubbed off on the notoriously sullen New Yorkers, who treated their fellow citizens with great dignity and kindness during this latest blackout. Such wasn't the case in the two previous blackouts in New York City in the '60s and '70s.

Maybe such stories will convince us that we should all act like Christians more often. After all, that's what we've been called to do, so let's get busy!

GUEST OPINION:

Pull 'Em All Down!

By Tony Martin, Associate Editor

religious nature of our Founding Fathers. How can a static display of the Ten Commandments "establish a religion?" An inanimate object has no power to coerce anyone to do anything.

The second argument I've heard is that no religious document or icon has a place on government (tax-supported) grounds. Well, I remember in school having to read Greek, Norse, and Roman mythology. I don't remember a whole lot of it, frankly.

I do remember Vulcan, the Roman god of smiths and metalworkers. Today in Birmingham, there's a heroic statue of Vulcan perched high atop a pedestal on Red Mountain. If I'm not mistaken, that's public land. So here we

have a religious symbol in the form of an ancient deity displayed for the world to see, but I haven't heard any clamor to pull him down.

In Nashville, there's a replica of the ancient Parthenon, and inside there's a statue of the Greek goddess Athena. The Parthenon is on public land, but no one seems to mind this religious symbol being displayed.

Just because these pagan deities exist on public land, I feel no compulsion to worship them or to pay them homage. Just because I don't worship them doesn't mean that they aren't representative of a once-thriving belief system. If we are to remove the Ten Commandments from public land, then let's go

around the country and pull down all references to all religions on public property.

We can't have Bibles in public libraries, now can we? Someone might accidentally — *gasp!* — read it. We certainly can't display the Declaration of Independence. It has several references to God, so that makes it a religious document, right?

Ludicrous. Would people who are apparently offended by the Ten Commandments be as offended if the display was of Hammurabi's Code, or the Laws of the Five Nations? Is it just the Judeo-Christian link that offends, or the content? I think that's the crux of the matter.

I'd imagine our Founding Fathers would be highly amused by this debate. Patrick Henry, who had a thing or two to say about liberty and freedom, said, "It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded, not by religionists, but by Christians; not on religions, but the gospel of Jesus Christ. For this very reason peoples of other faiths have been afforded asylum, prosperity, and freedom of worship here."

I rest my case.

IMB: massive missionary increase needed

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Southern Baptists need to increase their overseas missionary force by at least one-half to even begin engaging all the lost in the world, according to leaders of International Mission Board (IMB) work in 15 regions of the world.

The regional leaders and senior IMB administrators reached that conclusion during an early August meeting entitled Global Strategy Summit, at the board's Missionary Learning Center near IMB headquarters in Richmond, Va.

"We realize this is a tremendous challenge," IMB President Jerry Rankin said. "We have in recent months had to slow down the flow of missionaries going overseas so we can stay within the financial support provided by the churches, but our hearts are burdened by the overwhelming lostness of our world."

The slowdown in missionary appointments means attrition will take a higher toll than usual on the number of missionaries working overseas. While that number stands at a record 5,607, board leaders say retirements, resignations, and the steady stream of short-term workers completing their assignments will push the total below 5,000 by the end of 2004.

On top of that, one-fourth of the world's population — 1.5 billion people — have little or no prospect of hearing the good

news of God's love unless someone comes and tells them.

WORLD STILL LOST

"This is not a time when Southern Baptists should be sending fewer missionaries," Rankin, a Mississippi native

Jesus Christ known among all peoples will not change.

"The challenge we face is how to best use limited resources and remain focused on our vision of leading Southern Baptists to be on mission with God to bring all the peoples of the world to saving faith in Jesus Christ."

Southern Baptist churches are giving larger amounts each year through the Cooperative Program unified budget and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions, but the number of church members coming forward for missionary service has been growing even faster.

To stay within the support provided by the churches, the board is delaying 100 long-term missionary candidates and reducing the number of short-term workers this year by 30%.

The regional leaders decided to convene the summit to evaluate the impact of budget reductions and personnel limitations on the board's global strategy. Their purpose was to develop priorities that, in light of the urgency of the missions task, would guide board decisions.

REFOCUSED VISION

"We want to express our sincere appreciation for our missionary colleagues, home office staff, trustees and others who have prayed for this summit," said Rodney Hammer, who leads work in the board's Central and Eastern Europe region. "Throughout our discussions and prayer times, we experienced a deep sense of unity."

"We came to this meeting not knowing what the Lord was going to do among us. We depart in one accord, knowing that the Lord has refocused our vision and guided us to specific decisions that we pray will honor Him."

The need for at least 8,500 missionaries to seriously engage the lost of urban centers and unreached peoples groups was one of the conclusions the group reached. The number was based on research conducted in each region prior to the meeting.



MORE WITNESSES — Southern Baptists need a missionary force of at least 8,500 to seriously engage the lost in the world's urban centers and unreached peoples groups, according to International Mission Board leaders. In the photo, an unidentified Southern Baptist worker (left) in a distant land relays the Gospel. (BP photo)

and graduate of Baptist-affiliated Mississippi College in Clinton. "The lostness of our world is undiminished. Christ's mandate is still for us to make disciples of all peoples. And our mission of making

The group also decided to recommend that any funds above budgeted income that might become available in 2003 or 2004 be applied to sending more workers. Two-thirds of those funds would be directed toward sending long-term personnel (career, associate, apprentice), while one-third would be appropriated for sending short-term workers (International Service Corps, journeymen, masters).

The regional leaders also agreed on how the limited number of positions for new workers available in 2004 will be divided among the 15 regions and discussed ways to ensure that new personnel are placed in the most strategic field assignments.

Record

"Our decisions were shaped by our shared vision, values and view of the future," said Phil Templin, who leads work in the board's Middle America region. "While economics precipitated the discussions, it did not determine our decisions. Our primary focus is establishing reproducing churches among unreached peoples and unreached megacities. Our emphasis is on the catalytic function of training and coordinating to foster church-planting movements in the greatest concentrations of lostness."

"As missionaries, our passion to take the Gospel to all peoples supercedes our personal roles and regional identities," Templin said. "We are focused on the goal of impacting lostness and are committed to organizing our work in the most effective way to accomplish that goal."

• **Pray for and/or an unengaged people group:** <http://www.imb.org/CompassionNet/UnengagedPeople.asp> & <http://www.imb.org/WE/plink.asp>.

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Looking back

10 years ago

A volunteer group of 20 women, Woman's Missionary Union partners from Mississippi and Illinois, lead in a special series of meetings for women who are members of Uptown Church in Chicago. At least 65 women enroll in the series of meetings.

20 years ago

Preliminary discussions show little interest in changing the name of the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. The board has had the same name since its creation in 1845, and initial discussions show that the problems encountered in a name change would outweigh any benefits.

50 years ago

Evangelist Eddie Martin breaks all attendance records for a mass meeting in Greenville. Over 4500 worshippers crowded in his tent during the last night of revival, when "literally hundreds walked the aisles under the influence of the Gospel."

Web store redesigned

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — Convenient shopping is just a click away for the Woman's Missionary Union (WMI) members at www.wmi.org. The newly redesigned online store features more than 1,000 products and services. "One of the most exciting features is the ability to view and order WMI products, books from the WMI Bookstore, and more," said Delores Jackson, WMI's marketing director. "The store offers a variety of products, including books, audio, video, and more. Customers can search for items by author, title, category or subject. In addition, enhanced product information allows customers to learn more about a product before making a purchase. Each category also provides product recommendations and featured products with detailed information. The Web store is designed for both individual and church users to easily and quickly purchase their products and to use as a resource to discover related items of interest," said Delores Jackson, WMI's marketing director. "Those ordering for groups will especially enjoy the redesigned Web store because it allows customers to ship multiple subscriptions to multiple addresses." Jackson noted that churches may now use LifeWay credit cards on the website. Additional features include real-time pricing and inventory, special offers, the use of a shopping cart, a link back to www.wmi.org for more information and a user-friendly help page. A toll-free help line is dedicated to support the Web store should customers need personal assistance. Web store shoppers will need to register and create a new account the first time they log on. And, as before the redesign, www.wmi.org is a secure site. "The look and feel of www.wmi.org is very much like our home page, www.wmi.org," said Don Mark Taylor, WMI's webmaster. "The redesign was a much needed project to make our customers' shopping experience easier and more enjoyable."



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THE
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No. 28

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AMAZING COURAGE

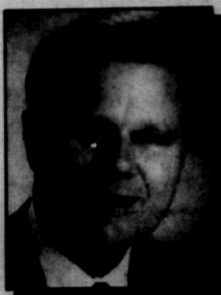
In the early days of May, 2003, the incredible story of Aaron Ralston began to be told. Aaron is the young man who went mountain climbing in Colorado and was involved in an accident that brought a huge boulder rolling down on his right arm. Try as he would, he could not move the boulder nor get his arm from under the weight. Hours turned into days and finally only one remedy remained. Aaron realized that if he had any chance of living, he would have to take his pocket knife and cut off his own right arm.

He had waited for rescuers and no one came. He had pulled and tugged and tried every way he knew how to extricate himself, but all to no avail. And so, with no where to turn and no other options, he did what he had to do in order to survive. He severed his arm just below the elbow. With a tourniquet on his arm, he began the trek down the mountain. Soon, he was found by some rescuers who got him out and to the hospital where he was in serious condition.

I was moved when I heard about this young man and tried to keep track of his condition to find out something about who he was and how he was able to do what he did. At the same time, I was struck by the huge lessons of life that jump out at us from his experience.

The first lesson was one that Aaron overlooked. **Don't travel the road of life alone.** Mountain-climbers are encouraged, if not clearly instructed, not to climb alone. They need a partner.

As the Scriptures tell us, *two are better than one*. It doesn't take much of a thought process to realize that this young man might have had a totally different outcome had he been traveling with a friend. The same is true when we consider life. God knows that we need a helping hand



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

as we travel. In fact, God designed it that way so that the home would be a cluster of helping hands and caring people. He designed it in society, but He especially designed it in the church. The repeated analogy that is contained in the Scriptures is that the church is the body of Christ and each of us exists not for ourselves, but we also exist for those around us. How much could be done? How many could be saved? How different would life be if we cared for one another and shared the triumphs and the trials with one another?

The second reality that the young mountain climber faced was at times difficult decisions have to be made in regard to one part of the body in order to save and sustain the body as a whole. It may well be that this aspect in our church life and body is one of the most difficult to deal with and to comprehend. It is the kind of awkward, painful reality that the Apostle Paul faced when he dealt with the sin situation in 1 Corinthians 5. As children of God, we are forgiven people and we are supposed to be forgiving people. But, at times, we must pause and realize that we are not to be people who just ignore the cancer of immorality and evil.

Probably, like Aaron Ralston, many of us may think that it will get better. Maybe something will happen. Maybe the rescuers will come. But, finally, action must be taken.

While there are other great truths that can be viewed in

this event, let me just point out to you what, to me, is the largest point of inspiration and that is the **courage** of this young man. Courage is almost always the deciding factor in crucial decision making. It is not brilliance, though it certainly plays a part. It is not creativity, though sometimes it comes into play. It is not even determination, though it is a vital part of decision making. It is pure, raw, grit-your-teeth, do-or-die courage that comes to make a difference in the moment.

While this young man's experience was brought to the forefront by the media, the stories could be recounted every day if we would watch for them. I've seen that kind of courage that makes a difference rise up and be demonstrated in the lives of young people with their peers. I've seen it in hospitals as patients make decisions. I've seen it on the athletic field and I have seen it in the church. I have seen it as it has mani-

festated itself in a committee meeting and I have seen it as it has stepped forward in a business meeting. I have seen it when a David has had to walk into the field against a Goliath and I have seen it as quietly as a Daniel being placed in a lion's den. I have seen it present and I have also seen it absent.

Moses was filled with it as he stood before Pharaoh and demanded that God's people be released. He was seemingly anointed with courage as he led the people across the wilderness. There were times when courage seemed to be absent from the people of God. They came to the edge and refused to have the courage to go forward into the Promised Land. Forty years of death, fear, and frustration followed. At the end of that time, God brought a new leader with new courage on to the scene, and said, "Be strong and of good courage." Joshua would need that kind of courage that only God could provide to lead this people forward.

Pause and allow God to show you those points of the compass of your life where you need the greatest courage. Ask Him today to fill you with the courage only He can supply!

For more information on anti-gambling efforts in Mississippi, contact the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 922-3372 or write to:

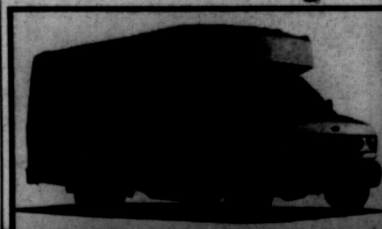
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Matthew 10:27 NAS

August 21, 2003

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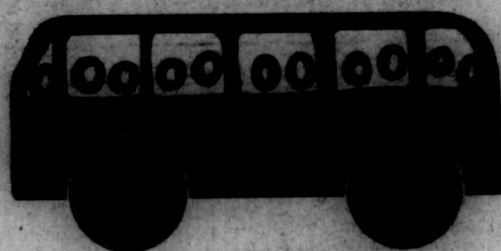
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Registration form available at
www.mbc.org, or call the Mississippi
WMU at 1-800-748-1651, ext. 317
or 601-292-3317

COST*

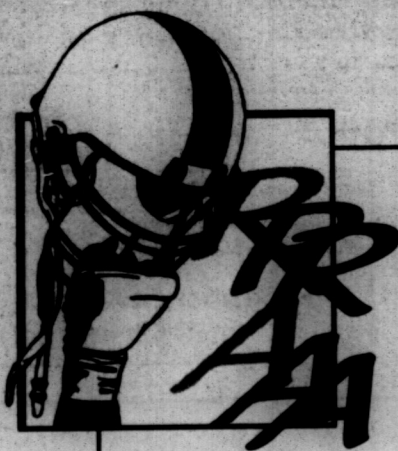
Single: \$107

Double: \$70

Triple: \$62

Quad: \$54

* Cost includes one night's lodging at the Hampton Inn, continental breakfast & bus transportation. Thursday night accommodations are available in the Camp Garaywa guest house for an additional \$14.



September 20, 2003

Mississippi College

Grades 1-12

10 a.m.-5 p.m.

\$4 per person

Bring your own sack
lunch and drink.

Mississippi
College
vs.
Howard
Payne
University

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE:
SEPTEMBER 17**

For more info, contact:

Men's Ministry Department

1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3335

Mississippi CWJC



National
Certification
Training
for Site
Coordinators

October 20-24

The Woods BC
Tyler, Tex.

Cost: \$113

Level 1
New Site Coordinators
(Spanish translation available)

Level 2
Existing Site Coordinators

Questions? Call Sandra Nash at
601-924-9205 or E-mail
snnash@aol.com; or Tammy Anderson,
Miss. WMU, at 1-800-748-1651, ext. 317
or 601-292-3317 or E-mail
tanderson@mbcb.org

Registration form online: www.mbc.org

One
Voice

in Concert

August 25
The Woodlands BC
Greenville, SC

State Missions

GOAL: \$1.5 MILLION



CENTRAL HILLS is home to over 900 boys every summer who have an opportunity to fellowship, have fun, study the Bible and learn about missionaries, but most importantly they have the opportunity to seek Jesus and his plan for their lives.

Ten year old Marco came to Central Hills from an unchurched family. Austin came by way of one of the state Baptist colleges to serve as a summer camp counselor. The two met and together they shared in Bible studies, swimming, mission programs, and horseback riding. Best of all however, Austin was able to share Jesus with little Marco. During the Thursday night campfire, Marco responded to the invitation and made public his decision to give his life to Christ. Thank you Mississippi Baptists! Your gifts to

the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering made a difference and changed a life through the Retreat Ministries.

"MISSIONS IS OUR MISSION" at Camp Garaywa. While fellowship and fun is an important part of summer camp, girls come to Camp Garaywa to seek Christ and hear his call to missions service.

For more info, contact Debbie Sills,
Mission Strategy, MBCB
1-800-748-1651
or 601-292-3320.

Program Personalities



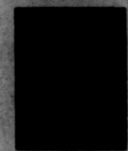
MARY BROUSSARD
Denham Springs, La.
Media Library Director
Denham Springs Baptist
Church, Denham Springs



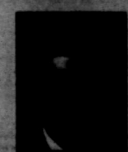
SUZANNE BURTON
Book Systems



HOPE FERGUSON
Natchitoches, La.
Library Director, First Baptist Church,
Natchitoches



SANDRA FITTS
Corinth, Miss.
Library Director, First Baptist Church, Corinth
Associational Library Ministry Director, Alcorn
Association, Corinth



STEPHEN GATELEY
Nashville, Tenn.
E.C. Dargan Research Library
LifeWay Christian Resources
SCB, Nashville



EVA NELL HUNTER
Decatur, Ala.
Library Director, Central Baptist Church, Decatur
National Specialist, Church Media Program
LifeWay Christian Resources, SBC, Nashville



TIM NICHOLAS
Jackson, Miss.
Professor of Journalism
Mississippi College, Clinton, Miss.

Other Program Personalities

JERRY SAGER
Manager
LifeWay Christian Store
Jackson

IAN RICHARDSON
Director
Communication
Services and Church
Library Ministry
Jackson

BONNIE FALVEY
Education/Discipleship
Pastor
First Baptist Church
Jackson

**BARBARA
WESTERFIELD**
Library Director
First Baptist Church
Jackson

For more info, contact Communication Services at 1-800-748-1651
or 601-292-3378 or e-mail jchen@mbcb.org

MISSISSIPPI



BAPTISTS
CHURCH LIBRARY MINISTRY

2003-2004 Church
Libraries Vision 20-20
Working to impact the world
for Christ

32nd Annual
CHURCH LIBRARY
MINISTRY
CONFERENCE

October 3-4, 2003
First Baptist Church
Jackson, Miss.

For more information



For more information, contact the MBCB Church Music Department at
1-800-748-1651 or in Jackson, 601-292-3267.

**Worship
Service**

August 31
North Oxford BC
Oxford
6 p.m.

Mississippi Baptist Ministers' Wives Conference

October 27, 2003

First Baptist Church, Jackson
[Fifth Floor]

1:15 to 4:30 p.m.

OUR GUEST SPEAKER

Sarah Maddox

For more info, contact the Pastor/Leadership Development
at 1-800-748-1651 ext. 308 or ext. 305 or e-mail:
mbuckles@mbcb.org or kmcdonnell@mbcb.org



2004 Mississippi Baptist
All-State Youth Choir
and Orchestra

Audition Information

1-800-748-1651, ext. 266 or

cwtaylor@mbcb.org

Web site: www.mbcb.org

auditions

Audition dates for the 2004 MBASYC&O
(Open to 9th - 12th graders)

Saturday, Sept. 20, 2004 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. William Carey College, Hattiesburg
Tuesday, Sept. 30, 2004 4 - 7 p.m. First Baptist Church, Summit
Tuesday, Oct. 7, 2004 4 - 8 p.m. First Baptist Church, Meridian
Tuesday, Oct. 14, 2004 4 - 7 p.m. First Baptist Church, Winona
Saturday, Oct. 25, 2004 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Mississippi College, Clinton
Thursday, Nov. 13, 2004 4 - 8 p.m. Fairview BC, Columbus
Saturday, Nov. 15, 2004 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. North Oxford BC, Oxford

(NOTE: ALL instrumentalists will be expected to audition vocally.)

Instrumental auditions will include:

- A prepared piece
- Sight reading
- Scales
- Technique and tune

rehearsal camp

June 14-17, 2004

William Carey
College
Hattiesburg

tour

June 17-22, 2004

Mississippi
Churches

Be sure that your
young people are
with the Church Music
Department two weeks
before they plan to
audition!!!

We need to know how
many students are coming
so that we can provide
judges and accompanists.

Sponsored by the
Church Music Department

JANUARY BIBLE STUDY PREVIEW CLINIC

I & II TIMOTHY

The Church: Anticipating the Kingdom's Appearing

Sept. 23	Blue Mountain College, Blue Mountain BSU, Delta State, Cleveland Gulf Coast Assn. Office, Gulfport	Carl White Dean Register Les Hughes
Sept. 24	BSU, NW MS Comm. College, Senatobia Garaywa, Clinton William Carey College, Hattiesburg	Carl White Dean Register Les Hughes
Sept. 25	Central Hills, Kosciusko Lauderdale Assn. Office, Meridian Pike Assn. Office, McComb	Carl White Les Hughes Dean Register

Registration begins at 9 a.m.
Conference 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Lunch will be provided by MBCB

For more info, contact the Sunday School Department at
1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3292

Pastor Staff

RECOGNITION & APPRECIATION

Recognition and affirmation are critically important
to each of us. How easy it is to give appreciation, and
how meaningful it is to be the recipient of affirmation.
And yet, how often we take our spiritual leaders for
granted and forget to say, "thank you."

Ministers deserve and need affirmation from the
people they serve. Members of the congregation need a
special occasion to say, "We love you and appreciate
what you are doing as our spiritual leader." Pastor/Staff
Recognition is designed to give the church an opportu-
nity to say, "Thank you for your labor of love."

Contact the Pastor/Leadership Development for a
brochure and assistance in ways to affirm your pastor
and staff: 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3305.



Hebrews 4:12

Mississippi Baptist 2003 Bible Drill Clinics

Question: What is the one thing we want
our children and youth to know?
Answer: The Bible, God's Word.

So, how do you make sure that this is taking in your church? Consider Bible Drill.
Mississippi led the nation last year in the number of children and youth who were a part
of this ministry of teaching God's Word to students. Why not be a part of Bible Drill this
year? Learn more about how you can participate by attending one of the following Bible
Drill clinics.

Locations

Monday, September 8 FBC, Picayune, & FBC, Senatobia
Tuesday, September 9 West McComb BC, McComb, & FBC, Saffillo
Thursday, September 11 Forest BC, Forest, & FBC, Louisville

All clinics are 7-8:30 p.m.

For more info, please call the Discipleship & Family Ministry Department at
1-800-748-1651 or by E-mail at dpapizan@mbcb.org.



Pray this day for...

August 22 - September 4, 2003

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

"Satan dreads nothing but prayer. His one concern is to keep the saints from praying. He fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayerless work, prayerless religion. He laughs at our toil, mocks our wisdom, but trembles when we pray."

Samuel Chadwick

Pray for more church planters. We may think that North America is over church. In reality, North America is a mission field so populous that it cannot be won by Christ without starting new churches. Approximately 70% of Southern Baptist churches are plateaued or declining.

The Taiwan Unbound Student Ministries Team asks you to pray for AR, NN, CT and PM, new Christians in Kaohsiung. Pray that they will grow and mature in their new faith, that they will be in a fellowship group with other Christians and will have the boldness to share their new faith with friends and family.

At a portable backyard swimming pool in the Dominican Republic, seven new Christians were baptized at a house church meeting last month. Pray for the Lord for them and their willingness to take a public stand for Christ. Ask the Lord to strengthen them and make them bold witnesses of their newfound faith.

For: (1) Labor Day; (2) Season of Prayer for State Missions & Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering; (3) Baptist Foundation Month - Pray for the ministry of our Baptist Foundation as it relates to our churches (Foundation Emphasis).

For: (1) Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Executive Committee Meeting, Baptist Building, 10 a.m.; (2) Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Meeting, Baptist Building, 1 p.m.; (3) Please pray today for Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri of Lebanon (eastern Mediterranean).

Timothy Larkin is the director of church and community ministries for the Chicago Association. Pray for Tim as he works with churches through community ministry evangelism to reach the lost throughout Chicago.

Mr. K. attends Emmanuel House Church in Ulsan, South Korea. He believes that his ancestors should be worshiped for four generations. Pray for him to give them peace. This is keeping him from becoming a Christian. Pray that he will accept Jesus as his Lord and Savior and give up the worship of his ancestors.

For: (1) Baptist Building Staff AT HOME DAYS, 3rd - 5th; (2) Pray for the family of a committed Nigerian home missionary, Rev. O., who died June 19. And pray for the other Nigerian home missionaries as they seek to reach the Nigerians who have never heard the Gospel.

For: (1) State Senior Adult Rally, Ridgecrest BC, Madison (D&FM); (2) God has opened up the door for a Baptist church in Zimbabwe to minister to students who board at two local high schools. Over 60 students from the girl's school study the Bible weekly with ladies from the church. Pray for a Bible study to begin in the boy's school.

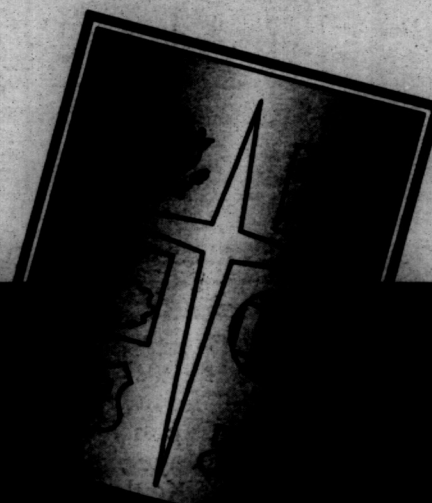
For: (1) AMD/MBCB Leadership Retreat, Camp Garaywa, Clinton, noon 4th-noon 5th (MS); (2) God has opened the door for Rusty and Debbie Pugh of the Congo Team to register for a permanent visa to the Democratic Republic of The Congo. Pray that this visa will be granted quickly.

For: (1) Church Leadership Training, Camp Garaywa, Clinton (WMLU); (2) Pray for in-country workers in Iraq. Temperatures reach above the hundreds everyday. The extreme heat causes dehydration and other physical problems. Pray also that they will be used of God to bless many others.

For: (1) Super Saturday: Developing a Spiritually Transformed Sunday School, Longview Hgts. BC, Olive Branch, 9 a.m. - noon (SS); (2) Super Saturday: Developing a Spiritually Transformed Sunday School, POC, McComb, 9 a.m. - noon (SS).

Richard Derby of Newport, Ore., is coastal strategist for the Northwest Convention. Pray for the new work in the Astoria/Warrenton area, for the workers and volunteers, and for New Hope Baptist Church in Ocean Park, Wash., as they seek to reach the Long Beach Peninsula for the Lord.

Prayerwalking is moving across South Africa! Several missionaries have been training and leading church groups in prayerwalking and prayerful living. Many are discovering the power of prayer and lifting each other and cities up to the Lord. Pray that prayerwalking will not be hindered by language, culture or race.



STATE HANDBELL LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

SEPTEMBER 12-13, 2003

Daniel Memorial
Baptist Church
Jackson, Miss.



CLINICIAN:

R.E. Thompson

handbell specialist

Leawood Baptist Church

Memphis

For more information, contact the
MBCB Church Music Department at
1-800-748-1651 or in Jackson,
601-292-3267.

VOLUNTEER CHAPLAINS TRAINING

September 19, 2003 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

• MORNING SESSION

Chaplain Colonel Edward Thompson
"Ministry to the National Guard"
Ministering to those who serve and their families.

• EARLY AFTERNOON SESSION

Barry Click
"Violence in the Workplace"

• FINAL SESSION

Gary Strehlow, Marty Harper & Don Warren
"Ethics, Confidentiality, and HIPAA"
How does this effect your work?

This training is open to all ministers and laypersons who wish to improve their ministry skills and gain up-to-date knowledge in these areas.

REGISTRATION FORM: VOLUNTEER CHAPLAINS TRAINING

September 19, 2003

Registration fee of \$5 per person enclosed (includes lunch and materials)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Please register by September 12, 2003

Mail to: Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Elaine Smith, Chaplaincy, P.O. Box 53, Jackson, MS 39205-0530

For more information, call Elaine Smith, 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3361 or

E-mail Elaine at esmith@mbcb.org

Sponsored by

Church Planting Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and
Mississippi Baptist Chaplains Association

HOUSE TOPS

JUST FOR THE RECORD

Squire Parsons will be in concert August 22 at Poplar Springs Church, Mendenhall, at 7 p.m. For more information, call (601) 847-2555. Jack Woodard is pastor.

Celebrate Recovery is for all adults who have experienced hurts, habits, or hang-ups plus chemical dependency groups. Meeting each Thursday at 6 p.m. at Country Woods Church, Byram, the night begins with a \$2 snack supper and ends with a coffee shop at 9 p.m. For more information, call (601) 371-7955.

West Ellisville, Ellisville, will present Heaven's Gates

and Hell's Flames August 24 at 6 p.m. and August 25 and 26 at 7 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, call (601) 477-9333.

A mission team from Pilgrim's Rest Church, Crystal Springs, and Strong Hope Church, Wesson, came to Calvary Church, Pascagoula, to conduct Backyard Bible Clubs July 28-31. The Mission Team is pictured in front of the church. Johnny Beaver is pastor.

The 4th grade GAs of First Church, Jackson, made an Easter blessing for one Buried Treasures family as a mission

project. The girls delighted the 5 daughters of a recently released inmate with giant baskets of goodies at a special party in their honor.

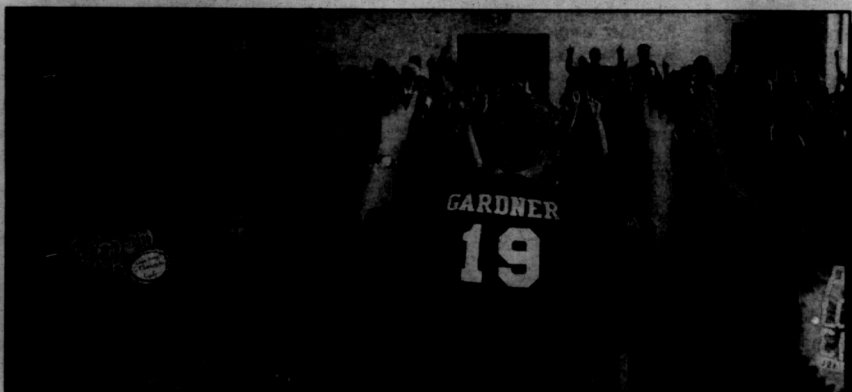
Smithville Church, Smithville held VBS July 14-18. The average attendance was 166. The children raised \$2,000 to support missionaries. Eleven made professions of faith.



4th grade GAs of First Church, Jackson



Pilgrim's Rest, Crystal Springs, & Strong Hope Missions Team



Smithville Church VBS, Smithville

HOMECOMINGS & REVIVALS

Moselle, Ellisville: Aug. 24-27; Sunday, 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., a potluck lunch will follow, and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Matt Buckles, guest speaker; Bob Thames, music; Keith M. Thompson, pastor.

New Harmony, Philadelphia: Aug. 20-24; Wed.-Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m., lunch at noon, and afternoon singing at 1:30 p.m.; Crystal River, singing; Don Taylor, evangelist; Charlie Womble, music; Dewey Moore, pastor; all are invited.

Sandy Hook, Marion: Aug. 10, 24, 31, and Sept. 14; Centennial Celebration; Aug. 10, 24, and Tell evening; Aug. 24, signing of attendance roster for the time capsule; Aug. 31, continuing of attendance roster, and singing; Sept. 14, Centennial Sunday; lunch will be served; Jerry Passmore, speaking.

Eastwood, Indianola: Sept. 7-10; Sunday, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Jim Phillips, North Greenwood, Greenwood, evangelist; Tommy Smith, North Greenwood, Greenwood, music.

New Prospect, Brookhaven: Sept. 14; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; a meal will be served at noon; afternoon service, 1:15 p.m.; Talmadge Smith, speaking; Mike Grim, and Crossroads Quartet of Bogue Chitto, music; Willie T. Welch, pastor.

Sand Hill, West: Aug. 24-27; nightly, 7 p.m.; Ed McDaniel, evangelist; local talent, music; Ralph G. Hunt, pastor.

Bunker Hill, Columbia: Sept. 7-10; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Gene Douglas, evangelist; Larry Lott, music; Randy

Gardner, pastor; for more information, call (601) 736-1136.

Wesson, Wesson: Sept. 14; worship, 10:30 a.m.; dinner on the grounds will follow; the stained glass windows will be dedicated; for more information, call (601) 643-5722.

Pine Hill, Enterprise: Sept. 7-10; Sunday-Wed., 7 p.m.; Danny Bullock, preaching; Arlis Nichols, music.

Siloam, Magee: Aug. 31; worship, 11 a.m.; lunch will be served; afternoon worship, 1 p.m.; Jay Westbrooks, preaching; James H. Garner, pastor.

Pine Hill, Enterprise: Aug. 24; worship, 10:30 a.m.; a covered dish lunch will follow; Kenneth Overby, speaking; Pine Hill Church Choir, music; Danny Bullock, pastor.

North Calvary, Philadelphia: Aug. 24-27; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., noon and 7 p.m.; Dwight Faulkenberry, evangelist; Karen Cumberland, music; Lawrence Runnels, pastor.

West Laurel, Laurel: Oct. 3-5; Centennial Celebration; Fri. and Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 9:15 a.m., 9:45 a.m., and covered dish will be served; Luther Price, preaching; Robert Coleman, music.

Parkway, Tupelo: Aug. 24; 50th anniversary; worship, 10:30 a.m.; dinner will be served at noon; a fellowship will follow; Mark Gregory, preaching; Paul Brashier, pastor; Robert E. Shirley, Jim Alford, former pastors; for more information, call (662) 842-7843.

Belden, Belden: Sept. 28; worship, 10 a.m.; a fellowship will follow; Scott Rogers, speaking.

COLLEGE NEWS

Approximately 181 students received degrees at William Carey College's two commencement exercises held August 9 in the Dumas Smith Auditorium, Thomas Fine Arts Building, Hattiesburg. David Petty, president and publisher of the Hattiesburg American, spoke at the graduate ceremony and Holt McMullan, president of Trustmark National Bank, Hattiesburg, spoke at the undergraduate ceremony. Cloyd Ezell, vice president of academic affairs, presented candidates and Larry Kennedy, president, conferred degrees.

Approximately 128 students received degrees at William Carey College on the Coast at commencement exercises held August 9 at First Church, Gulfport. Robin Alfred Midcalf, attorney at law in Harrison County, served as the guest speaker. Cloyd Ezell, vice president of academic affairs, presented candidates and Larry Kennedy, president, conferred degrees.

William Carey College baseball coach Bobby Halford was selected the Diamond Sports Company NAIA Region XIII Coach of the Year by the American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA). Halford will be honored with a banquet at the ABCA National Convention to be held in San Antonio, Tex. in January. The ABCA will recognize Halford's baseball career which includes 649 wins and 13 conference championships.

Argile Smith, chair of the division of pastoral ministries at New Orleans Seminary, will serve as guest speaker for the annual Carey Lectures to be held at William Carey College's Hattiesburg campus. The lectures will be held September 8 from 10-11 a.m. and September 9 from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

DURANT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IS seeking a part-time minister of music. Sunday a.m. and p.m. services, Wednesday night services. Also, lead an adult choir. Please contact (662) 653-3105 or fax resume (662) 653-6147.

ALTA WOODS BAPTIST CHURCH Preschool teacher needed. Four year old ABeka curriculum. For more information call Nina Nesom at (601) 372-5188.

PART-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC AND Part-time Minister of Youth needed at Lexie Baptist Church in Tylertown, Miss. Would prefer to combine these positions into one position. Send resumes to personnel committee, Lexie Baptist church, 12 West Lexie Road, Tylertown, MS 39667. For more info call (601) 222-0165.

NORTHWEST BAPTIST ASSOCIATION IN DeSoto and Tate counties is now taking applications and resumes for Association Missions

Director. Send all information, including accurate references to Mr. Dan Freeman, 2604 Laven Road, Nesbit, MS 38651.

ADATON BAPTIST CHURCH WILL BE accepting resumes for the full-time position of Administrative Assistant. All interested individuals may apply by sending a resume to Adaton Baptist Church, attention: personnel committee, 1975 Highway 82 W., Starkville, MS 39759. Resumes will be accepted through August 30, 2003. For additional information, call (662) 323-3735.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF WEST POINT, Miss., is currently accepting resumes for the position of a full-time Early Childhood Ministry Director (child care & Kindergarten). Please send resumes to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 794, West Point, MS 39773, attn. cc chairman, Sherman Berry or call (662) 494-4213.

RAYMOND ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH IN Jackson is prayerfully seeking individuals for positions as full-time minister of music and part-time minister to children. Please send resume to Raymond Road Baptist Church, personnel committee, 4622 Raymond Road, Jackson, MS 39212. Rev. Tommy Anthony is pastor.

AIRPORT BAPTIST CHURCH IS SEEKING a bivocational pastor. Send resumes and information to: Airport Baptist Church, search committee, P.O. Box 898, Grenada, MS 38902.

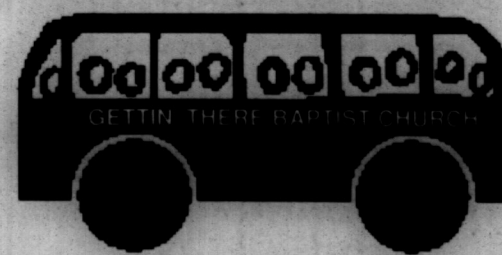
EXPERIENCED SBC BIVOCATIONAL pastor available. Prefer church within 100 mile radius of Gulfport. Send resume request to P.O. Box 5881, Vancleave, MS 39565.

CHILDREN-YOUTH MINISTRY Secretary needed. Send resume to Country Woods Baptist Church, 6737 Siwell Road, Byram, Miss. 39272-8700.

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THE VILLAGE VIEW



Dr. Bill Causey, Interm Executive Director

P.O. Box 27
Clinton, MS 39060-0027
(601) 922-2242

e-mail: bcv1@misnet.com

www.baptistchildrensvillage.com

Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

MARCH 1- 31, 2003

MEMORIALS

Mrs. Erma Stone
Mr. & Mrs. Warren Griffin
Mrs. Nona Richardson Stowers
David & Charles Richardson
Jessie R. Hemphill
Mrs. Ivy Stubblefield
Mr. & Mrs. Oliver N. King
Al Sykes
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis A. Buchanan
Blanch Tadlock
Mrs. Christine Smith
Thomas M. Tann, Sr.
Mrs. Nan S. Ducey
Mrs. Jewel J. Tapscott
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Cartier
Mrs. Lisa D. French
Ms. Victoria Harpe
Mr. Paul M. Johnson & Family
Dr. Paul B. Milner
Ms. Jan Nash
Dr. Cindy Haden Wright
Liz Barret Peaster & Family
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Terry
Mr. William Winstead
Mr. & Mrs. E. D. Leech
Miss Mary Alice Upchurch
Mrs. Eleanor Dees Taylor
Dr. & Mrs. James H. May & Family
Mrs. Bobbie Thames
Mr. & Mrs. Walter P. Gray
John Chris Thompson
Mr. & Mrs. Roger M. Myrick
Troy Tillotson
Barbara & Lee Pennebaker
Mrs. Marky Triplett
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis A. Buchanan
George Turner
Ms. Kathryn T. Davis
Mr. & Mrs. Hugh Parham
Gilbert Ross Twyman
Dixie Lloyd
Mrs. Carolyn Moore Nix
Etheline Ursary
Mr. & Mrs. Troy L. King
Mr. Conrad Valdez
Brenda Rowell's SSC, N
Columbia BC
Mrs. Elizabeth Van
Mike, Alice, Denny & Marty
Thewatt
Norman Van Wye
Mrs. Verla Callahan
Mrs. Sarah C. Scott
Rev. Danny Young
Mrs. Sally Wafford
Mr. & Mrs. Perry Spraberry
Duane Walwood
Mrs. Annis Goss
Mrs. Mary Sam Wall
Mrs. Jane M. Hardin
Mr. Jim Walters
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Bullard
Iona Walman
Mr. & Mrs. S. S. Crocker
Mr. Ben Warren

Mr. & Mrs. John W. Patrick
Mr. Henry Watts
Mr. & Mrs. Cary Williams
Homer Weeks
Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Triplett
Harry White
Mr. & Mrs. Cecil Clark
Maritza See White
Stanton Baptist Church
Mrs. Tressie White
The Brownless
R. L. Whitten
Mr. & Mrs. James C. Collier
Amy Wigley
Mr. & Mrs. R. M. Grantham & Family
Mrs. Wilma Wilder
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmie Mitchell
Mrs. Shirley M. Pace
Mr. & Mrs. Rhen W. Pierce
Mr. & Mrs. Claudie Williams
Mr. & Mrs. Warren Griffin
Ruth Williams
Mr. & Mrs. Albert F. Dribben
Kathleen Williamson
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas C. Hill
Dale Wilson
Mr. & Mrs. Glen L. Flurry
Mr. & Mrs. Eddy McGinnis
Mr. & Mrs. Frank L. Morgan
Mr. A. B. Winters
Mrs. Martha S. Gardner
Ann & Freddy Labella
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Ervin Jr.
Mrs. Mavis Wright
Mrs. Imogene L. Penn
Maxyne Yancy
Jim Ella Aden
Oneita Keith
Ernestine Rainey
Bessie May Wells
Leta Carter & Jimmie Dick
Roger Young
Tuscola Baptist Church
Walter Young, Jr.
Phil & Jackye Murray & Alan
Mr. & Mrs. Albert F. Dribben

Margarette Speights SSC, Immanuel BC
Ms. Bonnie Daughdrill
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Austin
Mrs. Lucille Bailey
Nan Bailey
Mr. & Mrs. Tracy B. Bailey
Maude Barney
Maude Barney SSC, Galilee BC
Gloucester
Gwen Beasley
Mr. & Mrs. Tracy B. Bailey
Ms. Edith Browning
Mrs. Malcolm W. Heard
Carolyn Catledge
Mr. & Mrs. Aubrey Hays
Dr. & Mrs. Bill Duncan
Fidelis SSC, FBC-Greenwood

APRIL 1 - 30, 2003
HONORS

Glynn & Huldah Ingram
Mr. & Mrs. John L. Prime
Maradith Moore
Mrs. Alfalese J. Vardaman
D. R. & Ann Roberts
Mr. & Mrs. James B. Terrell
Jonathan Tingle
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FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Finding My Place in God's Plan

Genesis 45:1-46:7

By Karen Hollowell

This week we go forward in the story of Joseph and his brothers. The famine that God revealed to Joseph through Pharaoh's dream had been in progress two years. Jacob sent his sons (all except Benjamin) to Egypt because he heard that grain was available there. Joseph immediately recognized them, but they did not know him. After putting them through several tests to ensure their integrity and compassion, he finally revealed who he was. Joseph could no longer hide his identity from his brothers. His emotion was overwhelming at this point. He immediately assured his brothers that they did not need to fear. Imagine the advantage he could have taken in this situation! He could easily have avenged himself for the

wrongs he had unjustly suffered. Instead he showed compassion.

We are so limited in our perspective.

Joseph, even with a strong faith in God, couldn't have known the plans in store for him. The meaning of the dreams he had years before was unclear to him and would remain so for years. In Gen. 42:9 Joseph recalls these dreams when he sees his brothers bow before him when they came to buy grain.

Most believers can look back at a seemingly bad situation and see how the hand of God was in control. Times of sickness, joblessness, and depression are certainly not positive things. However, if they bring change to your life where you were unwilling or unable to change previously, if a relationship is restored, if

Hollowell

you are able to help someone else through your experience, then something good has occurred from the bad. In Gen. 45:8, Joseph recognized this when he said, "...it was not you who sent me here, but God." Only the spirit of God in our lives can enable us to have this kind of vision. Are you now in a situation for which you cannot find an explanation? Do decisions affecting your life seem to be made by others who don't know what you are experiencing? Will we be able to acknowledge God's sovereignty like Joseph when he gave all credit to the Lord? He told his brothers that they had not sent him to Egypt — God did. Joseph went through years of suffering not knowing that he was the one God would use to preserve His chosen people. This was in fulfillment of the covenant made with Abraham. The assurance of this covenant

was given to Jacob later at Beersheba. On the way to Egypt he stopped at Beersheba and God reinforced His promise through a vision. God tells Jacob, "I am God, the God of your father; do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for I will make you into a great nation there. I will go down to Egypt with you, and I will surely bring you back again" (Gen 46:3-4). God's promises are not like ours. The word "promise" is not strong enough to convey the message here. What God says, will happen. He often uses His children in any number of situations to bring about what He has purposed.

This is a very personal lesson for me and one I know that God intended for me at this time. I'm a schoolteacher who left a job at a wonderful school to go to another that's smaller and much less financially secure. I was aware of the situation, but for reasons of family and convenience of location, I committed to the new job. Things are now worse than before. School has just begun,

and already teachers and students don't know how much longer the doors can remain open. I have thought recently how foolish it must look to leave security for the unknown. I can't explain it either. I am very concerned, naturally, but I still have peace with the decision I made. I don't know if I'll have a job next week. I have not had a vision such as Jacob's to reassure me that everything will be fine. However, I do know that God is in control of the situation. He may have other plans for me that I could never have experienced if I wasn't willing to let go of what was comfortable and safe.

Joseph didn't get to choose his path in life from age 17-30. He was a participant in events that were totally out of his control. However, God was glorified, His promise to Abraham upheld, and an entire people saved as a result of Joseph's faithfulness. Let us pray that God would find us willing to be used as His vessel in this way.

Hollowell is member of Crosby Church, Crosby.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Submitting to God

James 4:1-17

By Kiely Young

One day a lady came into my office in the church where I was serving and asked for prayer and direction in her life. During the course of the counseling I could see I was talking to a very strong willed lady. I saw very little evidence of the Lordship of Christ in her life. She asked for a resource to read before she came back for the next session. I gave her a copy of a book describing submitting to Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit and letting Christ direct all of her relationships. The next time she came in for counseling she threw the book across my desk and said, "I don't submit anything to any man. I control my own life. I am in charge of my own destiny."

James has some very strong words to any who would respond in this fashion. That admonition begins with "Submit to God".

I. The Need for Submission (4:1-5).

"Where do wars and fights come from among you?" James gets right to the heart of the matter. As the comic strip character Pogo said years ago, "We have met the enemy, and they is us." Charlie Brown said, "I don't have problems with the multitudes, it's just people that get on my nerves." Essentially, when we want everything the way we want and no other way, there is going to be a problem. James reminds us that we are often too attached to "stuff." Even among believers, there is competition to have just a little more and a little better than

Young

what others have. Since this is true, why do we get anxious, jealous, angry, competitive, or covetous over anybody or anything? It only happens when we let the flesh nature rule instead of being submitted to the Holy Spirit. Hello!

II. The Blessing of Submission (4:6-12).

For those who struggle with a strong will and resist submission, James says to just listen to the provisions of God in return. "God gives grace to the humble...draw near to God and He will draw near to you...humble yourselves before God and He will lift you up." This is not some sort of reward system for obedience, rather God's promises to those who walk with Him. James also admonishes us to resist the devil... and... he will flee from you. Simply spoken, it is repentance. "Cleanse your hands... purify your hearts... lament, mourn, weep." John says it pointedly: "If you confess your sins, God is faithful to for-

give your sins and cleanse you from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

God really wants to bless His children, but He only promises to do so for those who are humbly abiding with Him. He wants to see results in our lives. We are not to speak evil of others because of what they do or do not have, nor because of their position. God is the only true judge. He wants us to be faithful to obey the "Greatest Commandments," being "Love the Lord thy God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind. AND Love your neighbor as you love yourself" (Matt. 22:37).

III. The Reason for Submission (4:13-17).

We have all heard the statement by some high pressure salesman, "Man, do I have a deal for you. You will be fixed for life." This is so much presumption of the future. Those who preach a prosperity Gospel push this philosophy. "If you have enough faith, you can have your prosperity and all of the blessings of God." In reality, James says

that is simply walking outside the will of God for your life. Rather, James would have us respond, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that" (v. 15). Scripture tells us that we can know the will of God. We must seek Him alone. We must trust God to direct our path (Prov. 3:5-6). Paul reminds us in Romans 12:1-2 to present ourselves to God in living sacrificial service and be transformed with a renewed mind that we might prove what is the good and perfect will of God.

James concludes this section with the exhortation for further obedience. If we know to do the right thing and do not do it, that is sin. When we choose to walk outside the will of God when we just want to do our own thing, we sin deliberately. We must confess, repent, and determine to submit ourselves daily to God's plan. Only then can we anticipate to true blessing God has in store for us.

Young is the director of the Sunday School Dept. at the MBCB in Jackson.

Moore holds firm; critics question strategy

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (BP) — Facing a federal court order and an approaching deadline, Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore said Aug. 14 he will not order the Ten Commandments display removed from the rotunda of the state's judicial building and will appeal the case to the U.S. Supreme Court.

U.S. District Judge Myron Thompson issued an order Aug. 5 to have the 5,280-pound display removed by Aug. 20, but Moore said in the news conference that to do so would be equal to denying God. He said he would file an appeal with the Supreme Court to halt Thompson's order.

"I have no intention of removing the monument of the Ten Commandments and the moral foundation of our law," Moore said. "To do so would in effect be a disestablishment of the justice system of this state. This I cannot and will not do."

Moore added that the "question is not whether I will move the monument. It is not a question of whether I will disobey or obey a court order." Rather, he said, the "real question is whether or not I will deny the God that created us and endowed us with certain inalienable rights and among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

Moore faces fines if the monument is not removed. A rally to support Moore was held Aug. 16, drawing thousands of people from as far away as California.

federal court order, he ought to resign. We will take whatever steps are necessary to see that the federal court order is enforced."

Meanwhile, Jay Sekulow, founder of the American Center for Law and Justice who has argued cases before the U.S. Supreme Court in behalf of religious liberty, voiced a second opinion Aug. 15 questioning the legal strategy of Moore and his legal team.

Sekulow, on his Aug. 15 syndicated radio broadcast, expressed doubt, "legally speaking, that Moore is correct here, legally speaking."

"...I support the display of the Ten Commandments. I think it is the Western foundation of law [and] clearly displayed at the Supreme Court building of the United States," said Sekulow, before noting that Moore's stance "is going to require a constitutional showdown in Alabama."

The federal appeals court issued a ruling July 1 unanimously backing a federal district judge's ruling against the 5,280-pound granite monument of the Ten Commandments and other historical documents placed in the judicial building by Moore's orders in 2001.

In an Aug. 14 news conference, Moore said he will not have the monument removed.

Two additional avenues of appeal "should have gone for-

ward," Sekulow said on his national broadcast.

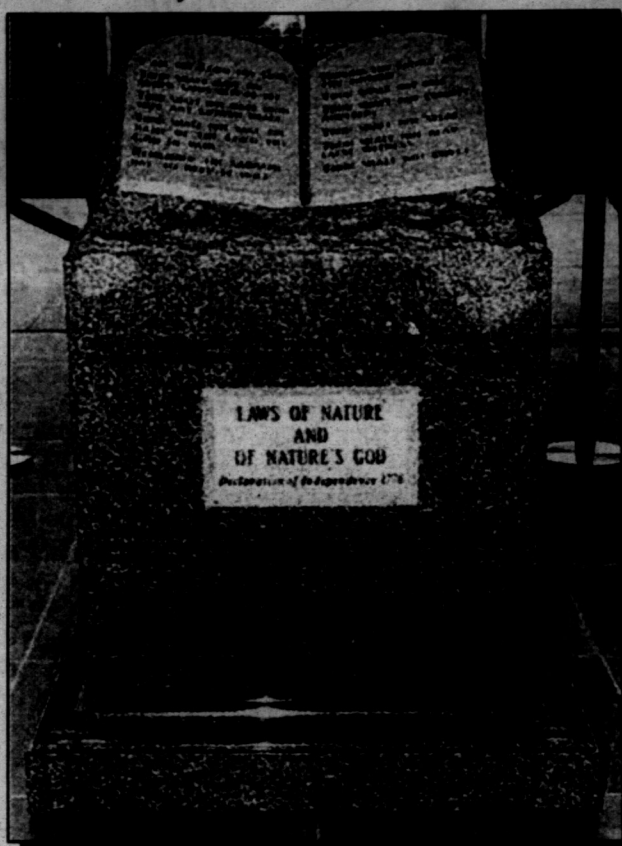
First, there should have been a request for a rehearing involving the entire 11th Circuit of Appeals of the July 1 ruling issued by a panel of several of its members. That rehearing process, Sekulow said, would have "taken a number of months."

Second, if Moore lost the appeal, he then could have appealed to the Supreme Court.

"What's happened here," Sekulow said, "is that Judge Moore and his lawyers have decided to not take the usual route ... but rather [are] going for a review directly to the Supreme Court of the United States, and they did not ask for a stay of the order pending appeal, which would have allowed the Ten Commandments monument to stay. Normally, these stays are given pretty routinely," Sekulow said.

It now "puts the state of Alabama in a very difficult position," he said, "because they are technically and legally violating a duly authorized federal court order from the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals that they did not ask to be stayed."

"I intend to uphold my oath to the Constitution of the United States as well as the constitution of the State of Alabama," Moore said. "I have maintained the rule of law. I have been true to the oath of my office. I can do no more, and I will do no less, so help me God."



Ten Commandments in Montgomery, Ala.

Barry Lynn, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, said in a statement that Moore "clearly wants to create a media circus."

"It's time to shut down the performance," Lynn said. "If Judge Moore can't in good conscience comply with a lawful

First person: Leaving new friends proves difficult

By Erica Harms
BSU summer missionary

Final in a series

It's always bittersweet when another page of life is turned. This week was full of goodbye parties and thank-you gifts before I head back to Mississippi College for my senior year.

The congregation of Eastside Church held a "missionary appreciation party" for my team this week. We shared laughs and tears together, took final photographs, and simply enjoyed each other's fellowship one last time. That evening, I was asked to share not only some of my experiences of the summer, but also what the Lord has taught me through them. I'm sure that I will not fully process every lesson I have learned until I get home, but as I reflected on some of the highlights I couldn't help but smile.

I have been stretched and challenged; I have been down in the valley and up on the mountaintop. I have never been more out of my comfort zone than when I was on our backpacking trips, but that is when I learned what it means to be

fully dependent on the Lord.

I didn't trek through the mountains to prove that I could cross a river on a log, that I could physically endure a 25-mile hike with 40 extra pounds on my back, or that I could escape a forest fire. I began the adventure hoping that the teenagers who were with me would see God in all of his splendor and learn what leaning on his strength, and not our own, can do.

When you fully commit to obey God's call, fasten your seatbelt and hold on tight because the ride of your life is about to begin! Even during my last week of service in Idaho, I have seen God work two miracles. First, I was reminded of what a small world we live in when a family moved to town from Brandon. As I began talking with them and spending time with their two sons, it was remarkable to see how God had allowed our paths to cross at just the right time. At a moment when I was needing the familiar comforts of the South, they were needing the same thing as they try to adjust to a new life and culture on the

other side of the country.

The other miracle I saw was when we had a slumber party for the Girls in Action group at the church, and some of the girls

Church of Latter Day Saints is a challenge, but we were able to share the Gospel that night.

In Idaho alone, the need for missionaries is immense. Every talent of mine that was discovered was put to use this summer. I did things that I never imagined I would do and things I will probably never do again, but I am heading back to Mississippi knowing that I was in the center of God's will, and there is no better feeling.

I sense an urgency like I never have before for America to fall in love with Jesus. The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. I've heard it said like this: "The Christian walk is like a football game: there are a few people on the field dying for rest, and thousands in the stands dying for exercise."

Harms is a Mississippi Baptist Student Union (BSU) summer missionary to Idaho. She is a student at Baptist-affiliated Mississippi College in Clinton. BSU summer missionaries raise their own funds for summer missions, and are supported administratively by gifts to the Mississippi Cooperative Program.



Harms

brought their Mormon friends. The only logical reason I can come up with as to why their parents allowed them to come is that God wanted them there. Taking a stand for the one true Jesus here, in a part of the country that is dominated by the

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CLU SR HCGQ RK YCXX,
RDCR, PDQL NQXAX PCX
BQRABLQU, RDQ
YQKYQQ ZOCUOV
BQHQSEQU DSG: IKB
RDQV PQBQ COO
PCSRSLZ IKB DSG.
OATQ QSZDR: IKBRV

Clue: Z = G

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Psalm 8:1